

March 8, 1976

barrows. Buildings were constructed across the state and across the nation, but they were constructed by honorable men who wanted to feed their families in preference to seeing them go hungry. They did not want to receive a dole from the government. This is an answer to that same situation which exists today. I know that it's easy today. They say let the employer pay, let the employee who has a job and is lucky enough to have a job - let him pay through reduced wages. I suggest that the problem can be addressed. I did not place on your desks the reprint from the Readers Digest that you read here today, but someone did. I would suggest that you would read it. It sites evidence of abuses in the unemployment sector. A very desirable program has become bogged down by individuals who have learned how to work the system, who have decided that they can make the system work. I have said before, and I say it again, in my own community we have a number of individual, young men for the most part, who are chronically unemployed, who choose to be that way, who do not make themselves available for work and who therefore drag down the system, increase the cost to employers, increase the cost of consumer goods and contribute to the rate of inflation. If we are ever going to solve the problem of inflation in this state, and in the United States of America, you've got to increase the rate of productivity. If you have 7 percent unemployed today the reason that they are unemployed makes no difference at this time, but that 7 percent unemployment rate contributes to the cost of the end product, contributes to the cost of groceries and every product which you buy. I know that people say they can't get a job. I would suggest that you pick up Sunday papers, Lincoln papers, the Omaha papers, there are jobs, after jobs, after jobs that are listed. I agree that many of them are jobs which people cannot possibly fill across the board, but every individual who today is drawing unemployment ought to be actively encouraged to seek employment. I would suggest that the amendment which I have offered you may need some improvement. I'm not adverse to that. Improve the thing, but lets not accept the premise that we must have a certain amount of hardcore unemployed in the State of Nebraska or the United States today. You act as though it's such a crime to take a public service job. I suggest you start right in this building. The janitorial staff has been reduced in this building. Why? Because we find it necessary to reduce the expenditure of tax dollars. The Governor has wisely chosen to reduce some of this expenditure in order to cut down an expenditure of tax dollars that burden the taxpayer of the State of Nebraska, but if there were persons available at a rate of employment that could be afforded we could fix the roof, we could stop the leaks, we could polish the brass, we could maintain this building in the manner in which it ought to be maintained. We could go on from there.

PRESIDENT: Two minutes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you Mr. President. I want to ask you once more, do not take the amendment lightly. You can go back home and you can boast to your constituents about how you held down taxes, about how you tried your best to keep the appropriations to a decent level. Until you address the problem of solving the unemployment issue you haven't really bit the bullet. You can be as

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